(c) The Central Government is responsible for implementation of the Apprentices Act, 1961 in respect of Trade Apprentices in the Central Government Undertakings and Departments; whereas the State Governments are responsible for implementation of the Act in respect of Trade Apprentices in State Government Undertakings/Departments and Private Establishments. During last year a special drive was launched by the Central Government, as a result of which seats utilization in respect of Trade Apprentices has increased from 75% to 86% in the Central Sector. The following steps are taken to ensure engagement of full quota of apprentices by the establishments:

(i) Periodical inspections and discussions with the concerned establishments.

(ii) Issue of show cause notices under section 30 and 31 of the Apprentices Act, 1961.

Insurance cover to migrant labourers

3109. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had proposed mandatory insurance cover to Indian migrant labourers even when it was opposed to by Ministry's own Finance Department;

(b) if so, the nature of objections raised and the solution found out;

(c) whether Government have recommended amendments in the emigration act to check exploitation and provide social security to migrant labourers;

(d) if so, the action taken thereon; and

(e) whether it is proposed to send a delegation to countries where Indian labourers are employed and if so, the details thereof alongwith the expenditure to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) While a scheme for providing mandatory insurance cover to the vulnerable categories of emigrant workers was being prepared, the Integrated Finance Division was also consulted. They had suggested, *inter-alia*, that instead of awarding the work to any one company, the product may be notified leaving the choice of the company to the emigrant workers. The scheme has been modified accordingly.

(c) and (d) A Bill to amend the Emigration Act, 1983 has been introduced in the Lok Sabha on 21-11-2002 to provide for establishment of a Central Manpower Export Promotion Council and an Indian Overseas Workers' Welfare Fund. The Bill presently stands referred to the Standing Committee for Labour and Welfare.

(e) No such proposal is at present under consideration.

I.L.O. convention

3110. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is a founder member of the International Labour Organisation (ILO);

(b) if so, whether the competent authority ratified the Convention (No. 87) on Freedom of Association and Protection of Right to Organise and the Convention (No. 98) on Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether the steps would be taken to curtail the provisions to dismiss Government employees through an Ordinance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The Conventions could not be ratified as our national laws and practices are not in conformity with the provisions of these Conventions. As per practice, an ILO Convention is ratified only when the national laws and practices are brought fully in conformity with the provisions of the Conventions in question. There is no specific time frame for ratification of these Conventions.

(e) Normally dismissal from service in the case of Central Government employees is done in accordance with the provisions of the disciplinary rules concerned. There is no provision in the disciplinary rules for issue of an ordinance to dismiss Central Government employees.